

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, the objected to paragraphs have been rewritten as directed by the Examiner.

Claim 21, the independent article claim, has been rewritten to specify very clearly that the bedliner of the present invention is a unitary, integral bedliner.

The Mucher '830 bedliner is not a unitary or integral three layer bedliner. The Mucher apparatus includes a cavity into which a patterned or decorative insert is placed. This is structurally very different from the bedliner of the present invention.

As indicated above, the bedliner of the present invention comprises at least three integral layers, a base layer, a patterned layer secured to the base layer, and a clear layer to allow the patterned layer to be viewed. This is structurally very different, and patentably different, from Mucher '830.

Egigian '642 discloses a single layer pad for a pickup truck. Combining Egigian '642 with Mucher '830 simply adds another layer, a separate layer, to the Mucher '830 cavity and insert. This is structurally very different from the three (or four-layered) structure of the present invention in which the layers are secured to each other to provide a single, unitary bedliner.

Egigian '642 is a liner for a liner - a pad beneath a drop in bedliner. It can be used beneath the Mucher '830 structure without defining the structure of the bedliner of the present invention.

Blyth '550 discloses a reinforced liner with an outer gel coat on a glass reinforced mat. The glass reinforced mat is disclosed as either two or three layers of resin impregnated chopped glass. This structure has nothing to do with the three or four layered apparatus of the present invention. There is no patterned second layer on a base layer, with a clear outer layer to enable the patterned second layer to be viewed.

The Luna '949 patent is for a decorative helmet! It is not a bedliner! The Luna '949 structure includes a fiberglass helmet shell made of several layers of fiberglass cloth, gel coats, and reflective chips. Note that the reflective chips do not comprise a layer. The Luna '949 structure is simply inapposite to the present invention.

The objection to the preamble of claim 1 as being without an antecedent for terms therein is not understood. However, the preamble has been changed. If the Examiner would prefer different terminology, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call suggesting some terminology.

Finally, it is respectfully suggested that the Examiner does not understand the terms "relatively flexible" and "relatively inflexible" as used in the specification and claims. Specifically, the "flexible" refers to the capacity of an article to flex.

Accordingly, a relatively flexible article may flex, while a relatively inflexible article may not flex.

The term flexible has nothing to do with durability, as used by the Examiner in paragraph 9 on pages 4 and 5, or with the ability to replace a patterned second layer, as also stated by the Examiner in paragraph 9. Nothing in the specification substantiates or remotely suggests the usage of "flexible" as interpreted by the Examiner.

Obviously, a bedliner may not at the same time be relatively flexible and relatively inflexible. The flexibility of a bedliner depends on the materials used in the bedliner. Since the bedliner of the present invention may be made of several different materials, as clearly set forth in the specification, the bedliner may be relatively flexible or relatively inflexible.

Note that the terms "relatively flexible" and relatively inflexible" are found in different claims, and not in the same claim.

The other art of record has also been carefully considered, but is not deemed pertinent to the present invention.

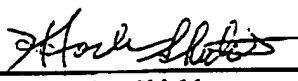
The rewritten paragraphs and claim 1 with brackets and underlining is found in attached Exhibit A.

For the reasons given above, it is respectfully submitted that the article claims under consideration define over the art of record and are allowable. An indication of

such allowability is respectfully urged. Upon receipt of such allowability, the nonelected claims will be cancelled in favor of a divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

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